

S E C R E T

19 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM : Acting Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL1. Puerto Rican Survey

a. Preliminary evaluation of Puerto Rican reception indicates results did not equal first impressions and additional surveys in the Caribbean area will be required before any decision can be reached as to the best site for a Latin American bureau. It is believed that the southwest coastal area of Florida should also be tested. []

50X1

b. [] Project Engineer, will return to Puerto Rico during the peak season for electrostatic cloud discharge noise, probably mid-August, to check reception and noise background at the Signal Corps receiver site at Salinas. An accurate Field Intensity and noise meter, ordered for the Okinawa Bureau, has been diverted from the West Coast to headquarters to assist in evaluations of signal strength and noise parameters. []

50X1

50X1

2. Initial steps were taken to increase the staff, and the coverage capabilities, of the Panama Post. The post chief was authorized to recruit two local foreign national monitors (one Spanish, and one Spanish - Portuguese), plus one or two additional teletypists. When these personnel are on duty an additional editor will be assigned. This expansion is believed necessary regardless of whether it is decided to construct a new Latin American bureau in Puerto Rico or elsewhere in the Caribbean area. This would provide a substantial increase in Latin American coverage quickly and at very low cost. []

50X1

3. Round-the-clock coverage of the Kuwait Radio was provided at the Mediterranean Bureau in connection with the Iraqi threat to take over the shaykhdom. []

50X1

4. African Bureau []

50X1

a. Training of the African Bureau's two initial monitors continued. The third monthly production report indicated a daily average of 550 words of publishable material filed, compared with 200 words in May. It is planned to send a senior monitor to Kaduna in early fall to assist with monitor training until the Bureau's second editor arrives.

b. The station construction contract was signed on 10 June 1961. Heretofore, construction has been proceeding by a Letter of Intent.

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c. Construction of station facilities is progressing satisfactorily. Foundations for the building are complete, and work on the concrete block walls is 30 percent complete.

d. The antenna contract was signed on 24 May.

e. Construction of housing to be leased is moving along rapidly. All block work is complete on two houses, the roof framing is almost complete on one, and roof framing has started on the second. Foundation work is complete on the third and excavation work on the fourth has started.

5. Round-the-clock coverage of Cuban radio and TV stations was arranged at the East and West Coast Bureaus and at the Key West Post in connection with the prisoners-for-tractors ultimatum, which expired at 1300 EST on Friday, 23 June. [REDACTED]

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6. A report compiled by the Liaison and Requirements Staff on the annual consumer survey was issued on 22 June. The report includes a statistical breakdown by individual publication of consumer evaluation and utilization responses, as well as a representative sample of consumer comments and suggestions regarding FBIS services and publications. The survey indicates that FBIS continues generally to enjoy an excellent reputation among a broad variety of U.S. Government consumers. Constructive criticisms and suggestions for improvement of FBIS products are currently under consideration by the various branches and sections concerned for possible responsive action. On the basis of the survey, Liaison and Requirements Staff made a number of adjustments in distribution which should improve service to recipients. [REDACTED]

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7. Of 259 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during June, 69 (26.6 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [REDACTED]

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8. During the month 88 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [REDACTED]

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1. Radio Propaganda Reports issued:

- a. "Bulgarian Purge of Party and State Functionaries"
- b. "Soviet War History Extolled on 20th Anniversary of Nazi Invasion"

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2. An analysis of Khrushchev's offer to negotiate partial disarmament measures, made in his 8 July speech, was disseminated on the FBIS wire.

3. RPB Special Services

a. A Special Memorandum for the Director summed up Moscow radio and press treatment of Walter Lippmann's 15 June television interview.

b. Daily analyses of Moscow propaganda on disarmament were prepared at State Department request for the U.S. negotiator at the U.S. - USSR bilateral talks on disarmament in Washington, 19 - 30 June, and in Moscow, beginning 17 July. Copies were sent to the Intelligence Support Staff, DD/I.

50X1

e. Daily classified analyses of Moscow, Peking, Hanoi, and dissident Laotian propaganda were forwarded through OCI to the U.S. delegation at the Geneva conference on Laos.

f. The service to the U.S. delegation at the Geneva nuclear test ban talks was suspended on 19 June with the withdrawal of the Agency representative on the delegation.

4. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports and special studies projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months:

a. "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming"

b. "Soviet Provincial Press Treatment of Centrally Distributed Articles"

c. "Problems Encountered in the Administration of CPR Communes"

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENTGENERAL

1. On 16 June, FBIS received an urgent request from high-level consumers for advance copies of the text of Khrushchev's 15 June televised speech on the Vienna meeting with President Kennedy. Mimeographed copies were run off and given pre-weekend distribution with the Pink Sheet.

2. Service messages designed to alert headquarters on upcoming urgent material should be sent by precedence higher than Routine (RR). In recent weeks some advisory messages of this nature arrived in Washington later than the items they were meant to precede. Corrections to items should also be filed by precedence high enough to insure their timely receipt.

3. An FYI calculated to arouse continuing interest in abnormal behavior of a transmitter, in an anticipated development which may or may not occur, or in other unusual but possibly transitory aspects of coverage should be followed up by appropriate messages, even of a negative nature, when the possibility exists that an isolated FYI may cause persisting suspense or uncertainty. When an FYI gives corrections and variations from a later broadcast of the same item, editors should specify what is incorrect and what is at variance in each case.

4. Listings of names of those present at communist bloc functions should contain the first name or initials to differentiate between leaders having the same last name.

5. So that logographs in Briefs can be reconstructed for wire use or for display presentation in the Daily Report, when circumstances warrant, bureaus are now instructed to include all elements but to omit prepositions, unnecessary articles, and the word "service." Headquarters editors, however, may delete elements when items are published in the Daily Report.

6. Articles and other long items which are broadcast or electrically transmitted in installments, often on successive days, are not to be filed under a single logograph even when all installments are available at the time of filing. Each installment must be handled as a separate broadcast or transmission.

7. The various bureaus concerned are commended for their excellent work in connection with the Mongolian Anniversary celebrations, the Turkish constitutional referendum, and the TASS Cyrillic text of Khrushchev's 15 June speech.

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African Bureau

Items made available to headquarters by the new bureau's interim and training operations show judicious editorial selection and earnest monitoring endeavor in the processing of Swahili, Hausa, French, and English. Virtually all material is published, the only exception being occasional items which duplicate material received earlier from other sources.

London Bureau

English terms in press agency copy which do not conform to standardized FBIS terminology for the communist bloc (e.g. crowns instead of korunas in CTK and provinces instead of voivodships in PAP) should be changed on filed copy. A distinction should be made in East German copy when the word "area" is a generic term or when Bezirk should be used as the specific term for the place.

West Coast Bureau

Low-level economic material, such as that included in the 3 July report on Kamchatka industrial successes, normally is best handled as a series of economic abstracts.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. During the past month more international broadcasts were added to FBIS coverage. Among these were the new Ghana international service beamed to West Africa and five hours of Spanish added to the Radio Havana transmissions to the Americas. A new anti-Trujillo regime clandestine radio station, "LA VOZ DE LA LIBERTAD," was heard for approximately two weeks but left the air on 11 July. One interesting development was the suspension by the Chinese Home Service of Moscow-originated broadcasts on the First Program starting 1 July. No explanation for the cessation of these broadcasts was given by Peking.

2. In an effort to help the BIS supply more up-to-date information on African radio stations, the USIA has asked its African posts to supply regularly station schedules from newspapers, periodicals, and from the stations directly. The BIS in this way will be able to develop more information necessary to an increase in the FBIS coverage of the newly independent African nations.

3. The Pioneer Electric & Research Corp. long and medium wave interference suppressor was returned from Okinawa. Extensive tests confirm its excellence in eliminating interference. Recommendations have been made for certain improvements and after a satisfactory price has been reached procurement will be placed on contract.

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4. A Communications Electronic Incorporated VHF, 30 to 300 mega-cycle prototype receiver, was received. It has been sent to the East Coast Bureau for test and evaluation. Recommended improvements, if not extensive, will be included in the contract for 20 units at no increase in price. The receiver can receive AM, FM, CW, and the audio portion of TV video broadcasts. It will be used for cruising and general coverage. Those bureaus with reception capabilities in the VHF frequency range will be equipped with this new receiver.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Transfer allowances may be paid without reference to headquarters in the same manner as other allowances.

2. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were released during the month of June:

STAT

PERSONNEL NOTES

1. New Employees

Assignment

Teletypist
East Coast Bureau

Monitor
West Coast Bureau

Intel. Analyst
RFB

STAT

2. Reassignments

From

Watch Officer
Mediterranean Bureau

Watch Officer
West Coast Bureau

To

Watch Officer
East Coast Bureau

Watch Officer
Mediterranean Bureau

STAT

STAT